

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ACDE-00 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
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R 070941A APR 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2071
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0176

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 4-10

1. IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION
NEGOTIATIONS HELD ON APRIL 4, EASTERN REPS FOR THE FIRST
TIME INDICATED, ALTHOUGH IN AN INCONCLUSIVE WAY, A POSSIBLE
WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN TO DISCUSS WESTERN PROPOSALS ON
ASSOCIATED MEASURES. WITH REFERENCE TO THE WESTERN POINT MADE
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ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE CURRENT ROUND THAT PARTICIPANTS
SHOULD LOGICALLY START NOW TO CONSIDER THE STABILIZING MEASURES
THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REGULATE ROUTINE ACTIVITIES OF
RESIDUAL US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA FOLLOWING REDUCTION
OF THOSE FORCES IN A FIRST PHASE, EASTERN REPS ASKED WHY WESTERN
PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD APPLIED ONLY TO GROUND FORCES, WHILE

FAILING TO DEAL WITH AIR FORCES. THEY REITERATED THE EASTERN VIEW THAT THE RESOLUTION OF ISSUES REGARDING ASSOCIATED MEASURES WOULD DEPEND UPON ACHIEVEMENT OF A CLEAR PROSPECT OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS ADDED THAT THEY WERE, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO STUDY THE WESTERN POSITION ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES AND SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN REPS PROVIDE A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THAT PSITION. THE GENERAL WESTERN STATEMENT AT THE APRIL 4 INFORMAL SESSION EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR IN JUDGING THE EQUITY OF PROPOSED REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

2. THE BALANCE OF THE APRIL 4 INFORMAL SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO A CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSION OF COUNTING RULES AND DATA. THERE WAS A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE MANPOWER DATA TABLED BY EACH SIDE FOR ITS FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. EASTERN REPS ASSERTED THAT THE TREND OF PAST WESTERN QUESTIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE EXCLUSIONS FROM THE EASTERN COUNT OF WARSAW PACT FORCES IMPLIED THAT THE WEST MIGHT SEEK REVISION OF THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED EARLIER IN THE TALKS THAT MANPOWER DATA WOULD NOT INCLUDE BORDER GUARDS AND INTERNAL SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS. WERE THE WEST TO PERSIST IN THIS REGARD, EASTERN REPS SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW THEIR POSITION ALLOWING FOR THE EXCLUSION OF RESERVISTS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE ARMED FORCES. EASTERN REPS MADE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REFUTE WESTERN DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN EASTERN POSITIONS TAKEN PREVIOUSLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DATA SINCE TABLED BY THE EAST, WHILE WESTERN REPS CITED ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF SUCH INCONSISTENCIES. IN REITERATING THEIR READINESS TO ASSIST WESTERN REPS IN FINDING THE SOURCES OF THE "ERROR" IN NATO ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT MANPOWER, EASTERN REPS

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RECALLED THAT THE WEST WAS YET TO AGREE TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE SEPARATE FIGURES FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT.

3. BELGIAN REP SMOLDEREN MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE APRIL 6 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION REJECTED EASTERN ALLEGATIONS THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND CANADA HAD REFUSED TO MAKE EVEN A GENERAL FIRST-PHASE COMMITMENT REGARDING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN A SECOND PHASE OF REDUCTIONS. IN SO DOING, BELGIAN REP REVIEWED THE SERIES OF ASSURANCES ALREADY OFFERED BY THE WEST IN THIS REGARD. RESOR

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